

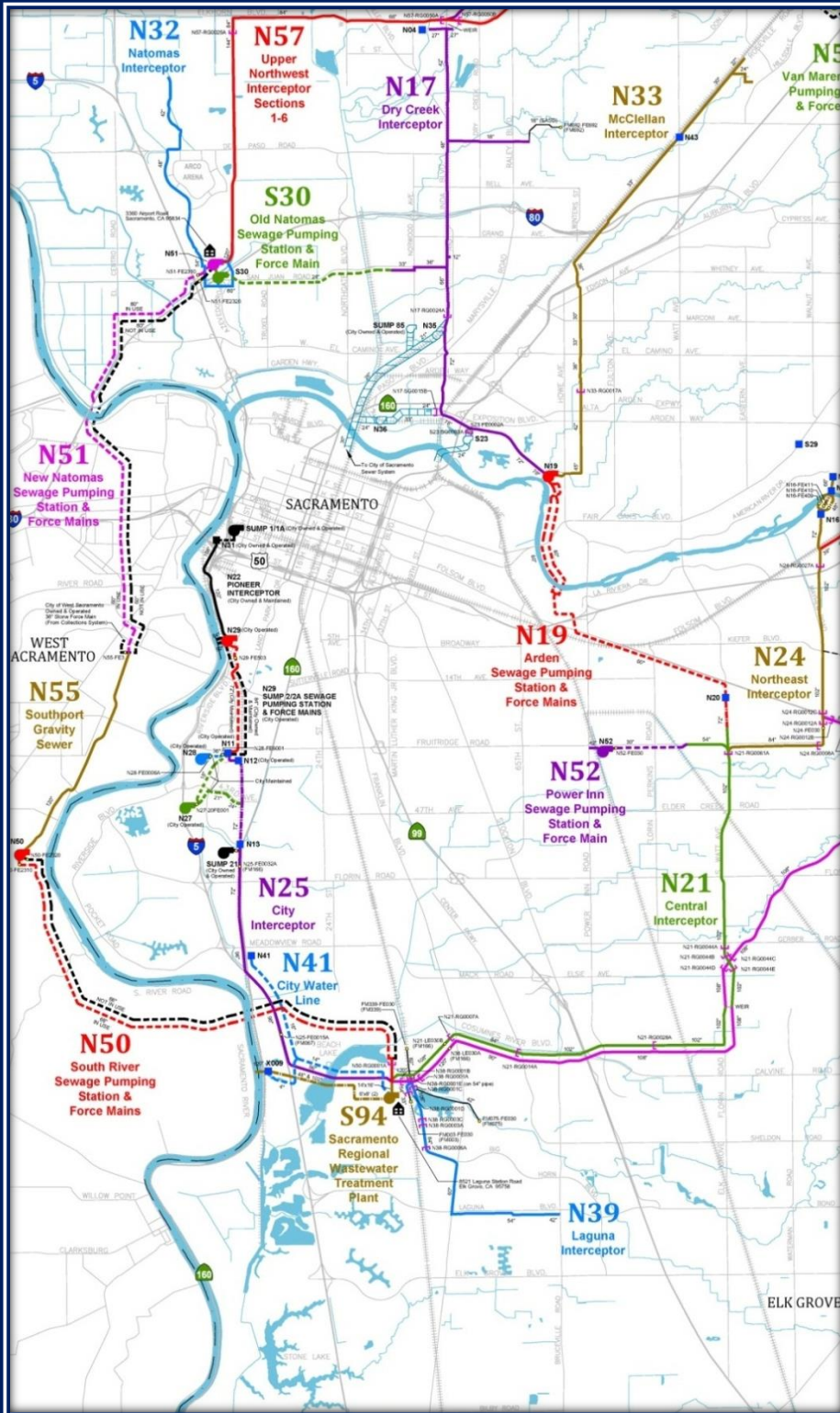


**SACRAMENTO AREA
SEWER DISTRICT**
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SANITARY SEWER SPILL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

FOR THE SACSEWER INTERCEPTOR SYSTEM

Updated March 2026
Supersedes March 2025



EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility

8521 Laguna Station Road
Elk Grove, CA 95758-9950

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FOR THE SACSEWER INTERCEPTOR SYSTEM

Sacramento Area Sewer District
EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility

8521 Laguna Station Road

Elk Grove, CA 95758-9550

916-875-9000

<http://www.sacsewer.com/>

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March 2026

Controlled Document

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Acronyms and Term Definitions

Acronyms

Cal EMA	California Emergency Management Agency (currently Cal OES)
Cal OES	California Office of Emergency Services (formerly Cal EMA)
CIWQS	California Integrated Water Quality System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EchoWater Facility	EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
LRO	Legally Responsible Official
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OERP	Overflow Emergence Response Plan
OES	Office of Emergency Services
O&M	Operations & Maintenance
PCC	Plant Control Center (EchoWater Facility)
PCCS	Plant Computerized Control System
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley)
SacSewer	Sacramento Area Sewer District
SacSewer Collections	Sacramento Area Sewer District Collection System Operations
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SDA	Sanitation Districts Agency
SSMP	Sanitary Sewer Management Plan
SSSERP	Sanitary Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements

Term Definitions from State Water Resources Control Board Order No. WQ 2022-0103-DWQ

Spill: A spill is a discharge of sewage from any portion of a sanitary sewer system due to a sanitary sewer system overflow, operational failure, and/or infrastructure failure. Exfiltration of sewage is not considered to be a spill under this General Order if the exfiltrated sewage remains in the subsurface and does not reach a surface water of the State.

Sanitary Sewer System: A sanitary sewer system is a system that is designed to convey sewage, including but not limited to, pipes, manholes, pump stations, siphons, wet wells, diversion structures and/or other pertinent infrastructure, upstream of a wastewater treatment plant headworks, including:

- Laterals owned and/or operated by the Enrollee;
- Satellite sewer systems; and/or
- Temporary conveyance and storage facilities, including but not limited to temporary piping, vaults, construction trenches, wet wells, impoundments, tanks and diversion structures.

For purpose of this Order, sanitary sewer systems include only systems owned and/or operated by the Enrollee.

Category 1 Spill: A Category 1 spill is a spill of any volume of sewage from or caused by a sanitary sewer system regulated under this General Order that results in a discharge to:

- A surface water, including a surface water body that contains no flow or volume of water; or
- A drainage conveyance system that discharges to surface waters when the sewage is not fully captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system or disposed of properly.

Any spill volume not recovered from a drainage conveyance system is considered a discharge to surface water, unless the drainage conveyance system discharges to a dedicated stormwater infiltration basin or facility.

A spill from an Enrollee-owned and/or operated lateral that discharges to a surface water is a Category 1 spill; the Enrollee shall report all Category 1 spills per section 3.1 of Attachment E1 (Notification, Monitoring, Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements) of this General Order.

Category 2 Spill: A Category 2 spill is a spill of 1,000 gallons or greater, from or caused by a sanitary sewer system regulated under this General Order that does not discharge to a surface water.

A spill of 1,000 gallons or greater that spills out of a lateral and is caused by a failure or blockage in the sanitary sewer system, is a Category 2 spill.

Category 3 Spill: A Category 3 spill is a spill of equal to or greater than 50 gallons and less than 1,000 gallons, from or caused by a sanitary sewer system regulated under this General Order that does not discharge to a surface water.

A spill of equal to or greater than 50 gallons and less than 1,000 gallons, that spills out of a lateral and is caused by a failure or blockage in the sanitary sewer system is a Category 3 spill.

Category 4 Spill: A Category 4 spill is a spill of less than 50 gallons, from or caused by a sanitary sewer system regulated under this General Order that does not discharge to a surface water.

A spill of less than 50 gallons that spills out of a lateral and is caused by a failure or blockage in the sanitary sewer system is a Category 4 spill.

Private Sewer Lateral: A private sewer lateral is the privately-owned lateral that transports sewage from private property(ies) into a sanitary sewer system.

Private Sanitary Sewer System: A private sanitary sewer system is a sanitary sewer system of any size that is owned and/or operated by a private individual, company, corporation, or organization. A private sanitary sewer system may or may not connect into a publicly owned sanitary sewer system.

Refer to the Collections SSSERP (**Appendix B**) for additional terms and definitions.

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Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SacSewer) owns the interceptor conveyance system located within both Sacramento and Yolo Counties. The interceptor system generally consists of approximately 113 miles of gravity interceptor pipe ranging from 12 inches to 144 inches in diameter, approximately 58 miles of force mains ranging from 12 inches to 72 inches in diameter, and conveys wastewater collected by four contributing entities: (1) the Sacramento Area Sewer District Collection System (SacSewer Collections), (2) the City of Sacramento, (3) the City of Folsom, and (4) the City of West Sacramento. Local contributing agencies own and operate interceptors, collectors, and trunk lines for their respective agencies.

The present-day SacSewer was previously known as two separate agencies, the Sacramento Area Sewer District and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San). The former SacSewer provided sewage collection services, and Regional San provided treatment and resource recovery services. In January 2024, the two agencies legally merged into one, resulting in a consolidated sewer utility, called SacSewer.

SacSewer is comprised of two operating departments known as ‘Collections’ and ‘Treatment and Resource Recovery’. SacSewer’s EchoWater Facility (formerly the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant) is responsible for treatment and resource recovery and Collections is responsible for the training of staff, spill response, clean-up, and reporting of spills that occur within the interceptor system. Therefore, this document refers to the SacSewer Collections Sanitary Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan (Collections SSSERP) for various spill-response, notification, and reporting activities that were previously included herein. A link to the Collections SSSERP is included in **Appendix B**.

Figure 1-1 illustrates SacSewer’s general interceptor system.

On December 6, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted Order No. WQ 2022-0103-DWQ (Order), Statewide Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) General Order for Sanitary Sewer Systems. This Order supersedes the previous SWRCB Order 2006-0003-DWQ and amendments thereafter. The goal of the WDR is to provide a consistent statewide approach for reducing sanitary sewer system spills. The WDR specifies requirements for a Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) to properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the sanitary sewer system. One of the elements included in the SSMP is the Spill Emergency Response Plan, which requires procedures to:

- Notify primary responders, appropriate local officials, and appropriate regulatory agencies of a spill in a timely manner;

- Notify other potentially affected entities (for example, health agencies, water suppliers, etc.) of spills that potentially affect public health or reach waters of the State;
- Comply with the notification, monitoring and reporting requirements of this General Order, State law and regulations, and applicable Regional Water Board Orders;
- Ensure that appropriate staff and contractors implement the Spill Emergency Response Plan and are appropriately trained;
- Address emergency system operations, traffic control and other necessary response activities;
- Contain a spill and prevent/minimize discharge to waters of the State or any drainage conveyance system;
- Minimize and remediate public health impacts and adverse impacts on beneficial uses of waters of the State;
- Remove sewage from the drainage conveyance system;
- Clean the spill area and drainage conveyance system in a manner that does not inadvertently impact beneficial uses in the receiving waters;
- Implement technologies, practices, equipment, and interagency coordination to expedite spill containment and recovery;
- Implement pre-planned coordination and collaboration with storm drain agencies and other utility agencies/ departments prior, during, and after a spill event;
- Conduct post-spill assessments of spill response activities;
- Document and report spill events as required in this General Order; and
- Annually, review and assess effectiveness of the Spill Emergency Response Plan, and update the Plan as needed.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the Sanitary Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan (SSSERP) is to identify the necessary procedures for notification, response, reporting, and clean-up of spills that may occur within the SacSewer Interceptor System. Additionally, SacSewer aims to improve communication with satellite agencies with the development and implementation of the practices described in this plan. This SSSERP has been prepared according to the requirements of the WDRs, SSMP, and other regulatory requirements.

By implementing and documenting these SSSERP practices, the impact of spills on public health and the environment should be reduced.

This SSSERP will be referenced in the SSMP and updated as necessary to reflect changes in staff, regulations, notification requirements, or response procedures.

1.3 Organization of Plan

Elements of the SSSERP are addressed as follows:

- Section 1 – Introduction: includes descriptions of other related plans and SacSewer’s approach to spill response
- Section 2 – Internal Notification: gives an overview of internal spill notification procedures and responsibilities of various personnel

- Section 3 – Spill Response, External Notification, and Reporting: describes response procedure for spills, and notification and reporting to external agencies
- Appendix A – EchoWater Facility PCC Immediate Notification Log for Interceptor Wastewater Spill Events
- Appendix B – SacSewer Collections Sanitary Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan

1.4 Other Related Plans

1.4.1 SacSewer Collections Continuity of Operations Plan

As mentioned above, SacSewer Collections and the EchoWater Facility mutually agreed to transfer the O&M of the interceptor system to SacSewer Collections beginning July 2020. As part of this agreement, SacSewer Collections updated their Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to include the interceptor system. The purpose of the COOP is to ensure continuity of essential functions in the event of a major emergency or disaster such as earthquakes, floods, fire, power disruptions, etc. Note that the EchoWater Facility developed and implemented its own Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) in 2009, which was last updated in August 2024.

1.4.2 Wet Weather Preparedness Coordination

SacSewer Collections' Operations Support Group prepares a Wet Weather Preparedness Coordination document for interceptor facilities each year before the wet weather season. This annual plan is part of the flow monitoring and capacity assurance program for the SSMP. The EchoWater Facility's Operations Support group develops a similar Wet Weather Preparedness document each year for the EchoWater Facility. Additionally, the City of Sacramento operates a portion of the interceptor system through a wastewater Operating Agreement, and the two agencies coordinate efforts through quarterly coordination meetings, which includes wet weather preparedness on, at minimum, an annual basis.

1.4.3 SacSewer Collections SSSERP

SacSewer developed the Collections SSSERP for responding to spills within SacSewer's collection system and jurisdictional areas, which includes the interceptor system, most unincorporated areas of Sacramento County, the Cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and portions of the City of Sacramento and the City of Folsom. The SacSewer Prechecker will typically be the first responder to a spill event and will coordinate additional resources in the event of a spill, in conformance to response procedures from the SSSERP.

1.4.4 Other Satellite Agencies' Spill Response Plans

SacSewer provides wastewater treatment for more than 1.6 million residents within a 384-square mile area within Sacramento County and a portion of Yolo County. The service area covered by SacSewer encompasses the Sacramento Metropolitan area, including the cities of Sacramento (portion), Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and West Sacramento. The cities of Folsom, Sacramento, and West Sacramento are responsible for collection system operation and maintenance within their respective service areas.

Cities of Folsom, Sacramento, and West Sacramento

The Cities of Folsom, Sacramento, and West Sacramento each developed a Spill Emergency Response Plan as part of their SSMPs in accordance with SWRCB WDR Order 2022-0103-DWQ. SSMPs are available to view on each agency's website.

1.4.5 SacSewer SSMP

SacSewer is required to comply with the SWRCB Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ. This Order requires public agencies that own or operate sanitary sewer systems to develop and implement an SSMP as well as set forth timelines within which a discharger must notify primary responders, appropriate local officials, appropriate regulatory agencies, and other potentially affected entities of spills that potentially affect public health or reach waters of the State. The goal of the SSMP is to provide a plan and schedule to properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the sanitary sewer system. This will help reduce and prevent spills, as well as mitigate any spills that do occur.

1.5 Organizational Approach

SacSewer Collections is responsible for maintenance and operation of the interceptor system, which includes response, clean-up, notification, and reporting of spills that occur within the interceptor system. For a list of roles and responsibilities associated with these tasks, refer to the SacSewer SSSERP in Appendix B.

EchoWater Facility Operations Support staff are the liaisons to SacSewer in the event of a spill, and are responsible for notifying Legally Responsible Officials (LROs) that review and certify the reports in the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS).

These LROs include SacSewer's District Engineer, Director of EchoWater Operations, and the EchoWater Facility Operations and Maintenance Manager 2. The Director of EchoWater Operations will determine when the District Engineer and the Board of Directors should be notified of a spill.

The **District Engineer** is the administrative head of SacSewer, and is responsible for activities of all operating divisions. Although the District Engineer will not be involved in the day-to-day activities of the interceptor system, they must be apprised of situations that may gain the attention of the general public, the media, Regional Water Board, or the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and conduct appropriate actions, if warranted.

1.6 Distribution and Maintenance of SSSERP

This SSSERP describes the procedures for responding to spills within SacSewer jurisdiction to minimize the adverse effects of spills on water quality and beneficial uses. Prior to April 1 each year, SacSewer will review and assess the effectiveness of the SSSERP, and update it to reflect changes in policies, procedures, and contacts as required to achieve the objectives of the plan. Additional updates to the SSSERP may be completed as needed. To ensure that SacSewer staff involved with different components of the SSMP are aware of the latest procedures for spill response, copies of the SSSERP will be distributed or made available to the personnel listed in the Distribution List located at the front of this SSSERP. This SSSERP will also be published on the Operations Support WDR SSMP SharePoint site.

1.7 Training

At minimum, two separate SSSERP trainings are given before each wet weather season, as noted below:

- Spill Emergency Response Annual Refresher for EchoWater Facility staff;
- Spill Emergency Response Annual Refresher for Legally Responsible Officials

SacSewer Collections is responsible for providing training to staff that have a role or responsibility for carrying out the Collections SSSERP.

1.8 Available Maps

SacSewer staff involved in spill response activities will have access to various resources for accurate determination of the spill location. Some of these resources include a web-based GIS system, handheld GPS units, and drawings and schematics of the interceptor facilities.

1.9 Spill Prevention

Severe weather will be tracked on a regular basis through various media (radio, internet, and TV). Appropriate staff will be notified of severe weather conditions as they become apparent using weather channels or other internet announcement system. Additionally, the storm prediction center from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides information for incoming weather systems. The Sacramento County Water Resources Department currently uses the NOAA severe weather alert services as part of the Flood Prevention Program. This information is also available to SacSewer staff on the County website.

Flow monitoring data is currently available at pump stations, various locations throughout the interceptor system, and from remote locations through a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. The SCADA system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Staff responsible for spill response can access SCADA data during storm events to gauge system capacity.

Internal Notifications and Record Keeping

2.1 Receipt of Spill Notification

County employees, construction site contractors, or the public may detect a spill, or report circumstances (flooding, foul odors, etc.) that indicate the possibility of a spill. If the public detects a spill and contacts County Central (875-5000) or SacSewer Collections (875-6730), either County Central or SacSewer Collections Dispatch will notify the SacSewer Prechecker. The SacSewer Prechecker will be the first responder to the spill site and will determine whether the spill is within the interceptor or the collections systems, and respond per the Collections SSSERP.

All satellite agencies are instructed to notify SacSewer Dispatch directly if they become aware of a spill within the interceptor system.

2.2 EchoWater Facility PCC Immediate Notification Log

In the event that the EchoWater Facility PCC is the first entity notified of a spill, they will complete the **Appendix A - EchoWater Facility PCC Immediate Notification Log for Interceptor Wastewater Spill Events** form. This ensures that all spills reported to the PCC are documented as part of the spill record keeping program and reported to Dispatch in a timely manner.

2.3 Chain of Communications

If it is determined that a spill is from an interceptor facility, the spill responder will notify the EchoWater Facility Regulatory Compliance Senior Engineer, who in turn will provide notifications to EchoWater Facility Management. The Spill Response Manager will also provide follow-up notification to the EchoWater Facility Regulatory Compliance Senior Engineer. Spill responders will typically notify Operations Support, the O&M Managers, and the Director of EchoWater Operations of all spills. The Collections SSSERP summarizes the chain of communications and notification responsibilities for interceptor system spills.

2.4 Record Keeping Requirements

SacSewer maintains individual spill records for a minimum of five years from the date of the spill. All records will be made available for review upon State or Regional Water Board staff's request. All monitoring instruments and devices that are used to fulfill the monitoring and reporting requirements of the Order are maintained and calibrated as necessary to ensure continued accuracy.

As applicable, records that are retained for spills and to meet the requirements of the Order may include:

- Training records
- Spill notification records and spill report forms
- Records documenting how estimate(s) of volume(s) and, if applicable, volume(s) of spill recovered were calculated.
- Steps taken to prevent the spill from recurring and an implementation schedule
- Work orders, work completed, and any other maintenance records associated with response and investigation of system problems related to spills
- Records, in accordance with the Monitoring Requirements in Attachment E1 of the Order
- Water quality sample records, including the following information:
 - Date, place, and time of sampling and measurements
 - The name of the individual(s) who collected the sampling or measurements
 - Dates the analyses were performed
 - The individuals who performed the analyses
 - The analytical method or technique used
 - The results of such method or technique
 - Water quality

SacSewer will maintain records of monthly no-spill certifications as described in section 3.2.

SECTION 3.0

Spill Response, External Notification, and Reporting

3.1 Spill Response and External Notification

SacSewer Collections is responsible for entering interceptor spill information into the CIWQS online database. Select staff have been approved for addition as interceptor system Data Submitters. For each Category 1, Category 2, Category 3, or Category 4 spill, SacSewer Collections completes a draft spill report in CIWQS and an interceptor system LRO certifies the report. For Category 1 and Category 2 spills, the LRO will have a three-day review period prior to certification. For Category 3 spills, the LRO will have a 30-day review period prior to certification. For Category 4 spills, SacSewer Collections will complete an online CIWQS report and an LRO will certify all Category 4 interceptor system spills by February 1 after the end of the calendar year in which the spills occurred. The LROs for the interceptor system are identified below:

- SacSewer District Engineer
- Director of EchoWater Operations
- EchoWater Facility O&M Manager II

Detailed procedures for spill event response, external notification to regulatory and other agencies, public advisory, post-response activities, and reporting are further described within the Collections SSSERP, which is included in **Appendix B** of this document. For any given spill, EchoWater Facility staff may assist with spill response activities, determined on a case-by-case basis.

3.2 No Spill Certification

If there are no spills during the calendar month, an LRO will, within 30 days after the end of each calendar month, provide a certification in CIWQS that there were no spills for the designated month.

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APPENDIX A

ECHOWater FACILITY PCC IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION LOG FOR INTERCEPTOR WASTEWATER SPILL EVENTS

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**EchoWater Facility PCC
IMMEDIATE
NOTIFICATION LOG
FOR INTERCEPTOR
WASTEWATER SPILL
EVENTS**

EchoWater Facility [MC 99-003]
8521 Laguna Station Road
Elk Grove, CA 95758-9550
Phone: (916) 875-9000

*This form is to be completed by PCC staff on-duty when notified of a spill or potential wastewater spill within the Interceptor system. Immediately notify SacSewer Dispatch **(916) 875-6730** and obtain a Service Request number.*

Today's Date:		
Your Name:		
Date / Time of Event:		
Location of Event:		
Did initial notification indicate that spill May have reached waterway?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Estimated Spill Volume:		
Date / Time SacSewer Dispatch was called		
SacSewer Dispatch Service Request #:		

Description of Event:

Person who notified the PCC:		
Date / Time the PCC was notified:		

Scan and email this form to the Operations Support Regulatory Compliance personnel listed below:

	Anna Johnson Senior Civil Engineer	Jared Wagoner Associate Civil Engineer
Contact:	875-9198	875-1254
Work Day:	johnsonan@sacsewer.com	wagonerja@sacsewer.com
Email:	(916) 539-0540	
Cell:	Date and Time of Call:	

Comments:

cc: J. Wagoner, A. Johnson, J. Tigue

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APPENDIX B

SACSEWER COLLECTIONS SANITARY SEWER SPILL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

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Link: [SacSewer Collections Sanitary Sewer Spill Emergency Response Plan](#)